



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 September 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Washington Times reports that officials Tuesday, September 26, dedicated the new Unified Communications Center in Washington, DC, which will accept calls for police, fire, medical emergency and public service throughout the Washington metropolitan area. (See item [36](#))
- US-CERT has released Technical Cyber Security Alert TA06-262A: Microsoft Internet Explorer VML buffer overflow. (See item [38](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) –

<http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *September 27, Reno-Gazette Journal (NV)* — **Vandals target power line along river.** A \$1,500 reward is being offered for information regarding damaged utility poles and stolen copper wire from an electric transmission line along the Truckee River corridor between Verdi and Truckee in Nevada. Sierra Pacific Power Co. said about 50 electric poles have been destroyed by the thieves during the past couple months. The 60,000-volt power line is not currently in service, but portions of it will eventually be re-energized to provide backup electric service. Portions of the transmission line support smaller voltage electric distribution lines. Their actions could cause service interruptions for Sierra Pacific electric customers, the power company said.

Source: http://news.rgj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060927/NEWS_15/609270325/1144

2. *September 26, Associated Press* — **State review finds possible reasons for LNG security breach in Massachusetts.** The audible alarm system at a liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage facility in Lynn, MA, may have malfunctioned on the night that two people cut through security fences and climbed to the top of the storage tank, according to a review of the state's LNG facilities released Tuesday, September 26. The inspections by the state Department of Telecommunications and Energy were ordered by Governor Mitt Romney after the August 16 incident in which two intruders were seen on surveillance tapes cutting the fences and climbing to the top of the 290,000-gallon tank at the KeySpan Corp. facility. The review also found that the Lynn facility's microwave alarm system detected the breach, but that it was not noticed because a worker may have been responding to a separate alarm that required that employee to leave the control room. The facility has since beefed up security and invited both the Department of Homeland Security and a private security consultant review security protocol, KeySpan spokesperson Carmen Fields said.

Source: <http://www.telegram.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060926/APN/609262564>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

3. *September 27, Associated Press* — **Toxic gas cloud sickens dozens in New Jersey.** A worker dismantling a pressurized tank containing sulfur dioxide at the Full Circle Carriers trucking company damaged the tank, releasing a cloud of gas that sickened dozens Tuesday afternoon, September 26, in Elizabeth, NJ. City Fire Director Onofrio Vitullo said 51 people were decontaminated and taken to three hospitals, but none of the injuries were considered serious. One firefighter also was taken to a hospital for breathing difficulties. Those who were treated had respiratory problems. Police closed roads leading into the area.

Source: <http://www.c-n.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060927/NEWS03/609270313/1007>

4. *September 27, Lincoln Journal Star (NE)* — **Liquid asphalt spills, prompting partial closure of Nebraska highway.** A truck hauling liquid asphalt crashed on Nebraska 2 near Palmyra on Tuesday morning, September 26, partially closing the highway to traffic for much of the day. Nebraska 2 from Palmyra east to the Douglas Spur was closed and traffic was rerouted. A State Emergency Response Team determined the liquid on the tanker was not flammable.

Source: <http://www.journalstar.com/articles/2006/09/27/local/doc45197c016b009855328280.txt>

5. *September 27, WAND TV 17 (IL)* — **Illinois hotel evacuates after chemical accident.** Guests are settling back into their rooms after being evacuated from a Central Illinois high-rise hotel. Tuesday afternoon, September 26, a worker in the basement of the Springfield Hilton accidentally mixed some cleaning chemicals. The resulting reaction sent irritating fumes into the hotel, forcing the evacuation of the lower five floors. Some guests reported breathing problems and eye irritation.

Source: http://www.wandtv.com/dsp_story.cfm?storyid=58742&RequestTimeout=500

Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *October 01, National Defense* — **Lightweight, high tech fighting ensembles sought by armies.** The concept of humans possessing the machine-like capabilities is fast becoming reality among several of the world's armies. In as little as two years, soldiers will begin wearing kits designed to seamlessly accommodate and connect all their advanced gadgets and weapons, effectively turning each individual into an informational "node" within the larger troop network. But while the future fighting ensembles consolidate disparate systems into a single "plug and play" unit, they do not yet alleviate the weight of all the gear. For a typical infantry combat mission, soldiers currently are saddled with 100 to 150 pounds of gear. Armies developing these future ensembles have set ambitious weight-loss goals for the equipment. The U.S. Army's "future warrior" project, for example, wants to lighten the load to about 50 pounds. Along with the weight concerns, power consumption requirements for all the digital technologies will likely be high, which will require soldiers to tote even more energy sources. And there is a question of how much information troops can absorb before becoming overloaded.

Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2006/October/Armiesaround.htm>

Banking and Finance Sector

7. *September 26, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-1007: Debt Management: Backup Funding Options Would Enhance Treasury's Resilience to a Financial Market Disruption (Report).** The September 11 attacks significantly affected the financial markets that the U.S. Treasury (Treasury) relies on. To understand how Treasury could obtain funds during a future potential wide-scale financial market disruption, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined (1) steps Treasury and others took during the September 11 attacks and after to assure required debt obligations and payments were made on time and ensure liquidity in the markets, (2) major actions Treasury and others have taken since the attacks to increase the resiliency of the auction process, and (3) the opinions of relevant parties on the main design features of any backup funding options. GAO conducted interviews with Treasury officials and others and reviewed appropriate documents. GAO recommends that the Secretary of the Treasury examine the requirements for establishing a line of credit and a private placement of a cash management bill and select the most appropriate option(s) as a first tier. As a second tier, Congress should consider allowing the Federal Reserve to lend directly to the Treasury during a wide-scale disruption using a carefully crafted last resort funding option.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d061007high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-1007>

8. *September 26, Reuters* — **GE says laptop with data on 50,000 staffers stolen.** General Electric Co. said on Tuesday, September 26, that a company laptop containing the names and Social Security numbers of 50,000 current and former employees was stolen in early September. The laptop, issued to a GE official, was stolen from a locked hotel room, the

company said. The Connecticut-based company began mailing letters earlier this week to the people whose names and Social Security numbers were on the laptop to notify them of the breach and to offer a year's free access to a credit-monitoring service, GE spokesperson Russell Wilkerson said.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=domesticNews&storyID=2006-09-26T201826Z_01_N26369160_RTRUKOC_0_US-MA NUFACTURING-GE-LAPTOP.xml

9. *September 26, Sacramento Bee (CA)* — **Six more suspects arrested in widespread credit card scam.** Placer County, CA, sheriff's detectives on Monday, September 25, arrested six additional suspects in a scam in which the names of more than 1,000 victims were used to set up credit card accounts at Wal-Mart stores in the Sacramento region. Sheriff's officials estimate that more than \$400,000 worth of gift cards and merchandise was purchased in the scheme over the past year. The "ringleader" of the group was arrested September 11.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/101/story/29669.html>

10. *September 26, Websense Security Labs* — **Multiple Phishing Attack: Tyndall Federal Credit Union, NIH Federal Credit Union, Trinity Bank, Associated Credit Union, Marine Federal Credit Union.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a phishing attack that targets customers of Tyndall Federal Credit Union. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message which claims that their account details must be verified before they can receive important announcements from the Bank. There have also been reports of a phishing attack that targets customers of NIH Federal Credit Union. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message which claims that upgrades to the security systems of the bank are being implemented. Users are urged to take advantage of this new level of security by following a three step procedure. Another phishing attack targets customers of Trinity Bank. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message announcing a periodic account review. To avoid having their account placed in a restricted status, users are told they must complete an account verification process. A phishing attack that targets customers of Associated Credit Union has been reported. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message which prompts them to take part in a survey and offers to credit their account with a \$20 bonus if they do so. Lastly, reports have been received of a phishing attack that targets customers of Marine Federal Credit Union. Users receive a spoofed e-mail message announcing the launch of a new security system. Users are told that their account details must be verified before the new system can be activated.

Screenshots: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=634>

<http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=635>

<http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=636>

<http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=637>

<http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=638>

Source: <http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/>

11. *September 26, GovTech* — **New York governor signs identity theft protection laws.** New York Governor George Pataki announced Tuesday, September 26, that he signed three measures into law that will further protect New York's consumers and their privacy. These bills establish the Consumer Communication Records Privacy Act, place limits on the use and disclosure of Social Security account numbers, and further clarify and define what is considered a computer crime. "These important new laws are yet another step towards ensuring that New

York consumers do not fall victim to identity theft," Pataki said. "As criminals continue to come up with new schemes to steal consumer's personal information, we must enact stronger laws that ensure the safety and privacy of our consumers and protect them from identity theft." The Consumer Communication Records Privacy Act protects consumers by prohibiting the sale, fraudulent transfer, or solicitation of a consumers telephone records without consent from the consumer.

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=101234>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

12. *September 27, Harvard Crimson (MA)* — **Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority vulnerable to attack.** The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) is "critically vulnerable" to a terrorist attack, and the state's defense efforts are both underfunded and understaffed, according to a report released last month by a joint committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security. The report, commissioned in the wake of the Madrid and London bus and train bombings of 2004 and 2005, also cites lack of communication between emergency response divisions, including the police and fire departments, as a chief reason for the transportation system's vulnerability. The committee, which was chaired by State Sen. Jarrett T. Barrios (D-Cambridge), recommended that significant increases in funding for training, surveillance, and inter-operational communication. It also recommends allocating \$5.4 million to hire 100 new officers for the MBTA Transit Police. The committee reported that the MBTA police force has actually shrunk since 9/11, and that its forces are "far smaller" than those in London in proportion to the city's population. The report placed particular emphasis on the Porter and Davis square stations, which are the furthest underground in the entire MBTA system.

Massachusetts joint committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security:

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/comm/j22.htm>

Source: <http://www.thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=514477>

13. *September 27, Associated Press* — **Woman at Florida airport arrested with gun.** A woman was arrested after security screeners at Florida's Tampa International Airport found a loaded handgun tucked in her carryon bag, authorities said. Mavis Cobb Thornton was taken into custody after a screener discovered the .38-caliber revolver, loaded with three bullets, in her bag as she passed through a security checkpoint Monday, September 25, police said. She was arrested on charges of carrying a concealed weapon. She was booked into the county jail and released after posting bail.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AIRPORT_GUN_ARREST?SITE=FLTAM&SECTION=US

14. *September 26, Associated Press* — **Kyrgyzstan jet grazes U.S. tanker plane.** A Kyrgyz passenger jet on Tuesday, September 26, grazed a U.S. military tanker plane while taking off from an airport near the Kyrgyz capital, setting the American aircraft ablaze. Nobody was injured, officials said. Kyrgyz Airlines' Tu-154 passenger jet carrying 52 passengers and nine crew en route to the southern city of Osh, then to Moscow hit the U.S. aircraft standing on the tarmac of the Manas airport that also houses a U.S. military air base, said airport spokesperson

Ainura Tentieva. Kyrgyz authorities closed the airport for several hours, and an official investigation was under way.

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/news/2006/09/26/D8KCOP1G0.html>

15. *September 26, Reuters* — **Train with DC baseball team derails, no injuries.** The Amtrak train carrying the Washington Nationals baseball team home from New York derailed early on Tuesday, September 26, in Delaware. The incident was minor and no injuries were reported. The last set of wheels on the locomotive left the tracks north of the Wilmington station at about 1:30 a.m. (EDT). The train was moving slowly and none of the three cars of the charter train left the tracks, said Amtrak spokesperson Cliff Black. The cause is under investigation. The Nationals were transferred to another train that arrived at Washington's Union Station about three hours later without incident.

Source: [http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=domesticNews&storyID=2006-09-26T153450Z_01_N26340789_RTRUKOC_0_US-BA SEBALL-DERAILMENT.xml&archived=False](http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=domesticNews&storyID=2006-09-26T153450Z_01_N26340789_RTRUKOC_0_US-BASEBALL-DERAILMENT.xml&archived=False)

16. *September 26, Federal Times* — **Federal Aviation Administration ends procurement program.** A \$543 million Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) contracting program is being dissolved after an audit found it was improperly managed by the agency, according to a Department of Transportation inspector general (IG) report. Only 24 percent of the 114 contracts awarded for support services under the RESULTS program “benefited from competition” and half of all contracts were awarded with no competition, according to the audit. The IG found that most of the contracts lacking competition were awarded based on “manager’s preference for working with a known individual contractor, an unacceptable reason.” Also, 10 of 11 contracts reviewed lacked any criteria to determine contractor performance, the audit found. The audit also found the program failed to meet its mission of providing FAA with faster, cheaper and better support services. Labor costs under the RESULTS program were \$24 million to \$44 million higher than those incurred under other FAA procurement programs.

Source: <http://federaltimes.com/index.php?S=2132477>

17. *September 25, Business Review (NY)* — **Port of Albany receives funds for security measures.** The Port of Albany, in New York, will receive \$624,750 in federal money to enhance port security. The funding was announced September 25 by U.S. Senator Charles Schumer. The money will come from the Department of Homeland Security's Port Security Grant Program. The emphasis in the grants being awarded this year is on protection from improvised explosive devices, non-conventional methods of attack and increased awareness in the port environment. The port will use the money to purchase communications equipment that allows port officials to talk to local fire and police departments and to buy surveillance cameras that will be installed on the Rensselaer side of the port, said Port Director Frank Keane. The grant money will also be used to pay for training and a security exercise for port employees and other first-responders.

Source: <http://sanantonio.bizjournals.com/albany/stories/2006/09/25/daily13.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *September 27, Evening Sun (PA)* — **Suspicious 'package' found under postal vehicle, prompts evacuations in Pennsylvania.** A suspicious package found under a postal vehicle in New Oxford, PA, on Monday morning, September 25, closed Route 30 for more than two hours and prompted the evacuation of some nearby businesses, homes and a school. A post office employee noticed a briefcase lying under a postal Jeep parked beside the post office in a lot along Eagle Street. An investigation revealed the briefcase contained business paperwork, said Joseph Corrado, a U.S. Postal Inspector.
Source: http://www.eveningsun.com/localnews/ci_4398104
19. *September 26, U.S. Postal Service* — **U.S. Postal Service proposes new mailing standards to increase efficiency.** The U.S. Postal Service proposes to revise its mailing standards to encourage mail preparation that is compatible with the Postal Service's improved processing capabilities. When implemented, the standards would accompany the proposed price changes planned to take effect next spring. The new standards give customers more choices in terms of shape, sorting, packaging and containers that encourage more efficient mail preparation. The proposal also increases worksharing opportunities for mailers, allows them to qualify for lower prices by permitting multiple classes of mail to be combined, and reduces the number of bundles, sacks, or trays in a mailing through scheme sorting for letters, flats, and parcels, when appropriate. Comments on the proposal are being accepted through November 13.
Source: http://www.usps.com/communications/news/press/2006/pr06_058.pdf
20. *September 26, CBS 4 Denver* — **Four threatening letters with suspicious powder delivered to four Colorado state offices.** The U.S. Postal Service said it's confident that no more threatening letters will be delivered in Denver after four state offices had to be evacuated on Monday, September 25. At every post office in Colorado, mail sorters teamed up with postal inspectors to stop any new potentially threatening letters from being delivered. The unusual effort is aimed at avoiding a repeat of Monday's evacuations. The state geological survey offices were evacuated after a threatening note with suspicious powder was discovered. The powder proved to be harmless. There were a total four threatening letters, each with powder, delivered Monday to four state offices in Denver.
Source: http://cbs4denver.com/topstories/local_story_269213223.html
21. *September 26, Santa Cruz Sentinel (CA)* — **Suspicious powder mailed to California radio station prompts quarantine.** A KSCO radio station worker in Live Oak, CA, opened an envelope filled with a mysterious white powder Monday afternoon, September 25, prompting authorities to quarantine the station and close a half-mile stretch of Portola Drive for more than four hours. The county Hazardous Materials Team and county Environmental Health Department officials sealed the area off because of concern the powder could be a dangerous substance, such as anthrax. Three station employees were exposed to the powder, but none showed symptoms of exposure to a hazardous substance. The powder came out of a legal-size envelope with no return address delivered to the building Monday.
Source: <http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2006/September/26/local/stories/01local.htm>

Agriculture Sector

22. *September 27, Associated Press* — **Iowa launches protection plan against pest that destroys trees.** Iowa Insect experts say it's only a matter of time — if the emerald ash borer isn't in Iowa yet, it will be soon. The pest dines on ash trees, and so far, it has killed or injured 20 million trees since 2002. Robin Pruisner is Iowa's state entomologist. She says Michigan authorities have told her the insect has probably crossed Iowa's border. But investigators haven't found any in more than two years of checking. To help ward off the pest, officials are drafting a plan to ban the use of firewood from other states. The plan is also expected to set details of any quarantine, tree removal or other action if the insect is found in Iowa.
Emerald ash borer information: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>
Source: <http://www.kwwl.com/Global/story.asp?S=5464077&nav=2Ifu>

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Food Sector

23. *September 27, Reuters* — **Japan farm minister won't ease beef rule for U.S.** Japan's new Agriculture Minister Toshikatsu Matsuoka said on Wednesday, September 27, he would follow the stance set by his predecessor of rejecting a U.S. proposal to start discussions on easing beef trade rules later this year. Matsuoka said U.S. beef exporters must convince Japanese consumers they can fully meet current safety requirements set by the Japanese government before asking for them to be relaxed. Japan lifted a ban on U.S. beef in July — a prohibition that had been in place for most of time since December 2003 due to fears arising from mad cow disease. To guard against dangers from the brain-wasting disease, Japan requires U.S. suppliers to export beef only from animals aged up to 20 months, and to eliminate specified risk materials suspected of spreading illness, such as spinal cords, before shipment. The U.S. beef industry has been asking Japan to relax the import requirements in line with an international standard that allows trade in boneless beef from animals aged up to 30 months.
Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=business&News&storyID=2006-09-27T102131Z_01_T15039_RTRUKOC_0_US-FOOD-JAPAN-BEEF-USA.xml&archived=False
24. *September 26, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Statement on E. coli outbreak in spinach.** To date, 183 cases of illness due to E. coli O157:H7 infection have been reported to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including 29 cases of Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS), 95 hospitalizations and one death. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has determined that the spinach implicated in the outbreak was grown in three California counties: Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Clara. Industry is working to get spinach from areas not implicated in the current outbreak back on the market. The 26 affected states are: Arizona (7), California (1), Colorado (1), Connecticut (3), Idaho (4), Illinois (1), Indiana (9), Kentucky (8), Maine (3), Maryland (3), Michigan (4), Minnesota (2), Nebraska (9), Nevada (1), New Mexico (5), New York (11), Ohio (24), Oregon (6), Pennsylvania (8), Tennessee (1), Utah (18), Virginia (2), Washington (3), West Virginia (1), Wisconsin (47), and Wyoming (1). In addition, Canada has confirmed that one case of E. coli O157:H7 has been positively matched to the outbreak strain in a person who ate bagged spinach. The FDA

developed the Lettuce Safety Initiative in response to recurring outbreaks of E. coli O157:H7 in lettuce. As a result of this outbreak, the initiative has been expanded to cover spinach. Lettuce Safety Initiative: www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/lettsafe.html
Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2006/NEW01466.html>

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Water Sector

25. *September 27, Associated Press* — **Several Asian nations unlikely to meet United Nations' safe water target.** India and China are likely to meet United Nations (UN) set targets for access to safe drinking water by 2015, but four other Asian nations are expected to fail, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Wednesday, September 27. Indonesia is on course to miss the safe water target as well as a UN goal for improved sanitation, while Pakistan, the Philippines and Vietnam may meet sanitation needs but not the water target, the ADB said. In 2000, world leaders agreed to a set of Millennium Development Goals that included cutting in half by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to drinking water and improved sanitation. In 2002, about 700 million people in the Asia-Pacific region were still without safe water supplies and some two billion had inadequate or no toilet facilities, the bank said. Since then investments to address the problems have fallen seriously behind demands across the region, it said. The ADB said it was working to increase investment in water operations in developing member countries to more than two billion dollars annually in the next five years, from an average of \$790 million a year in 1990–2005 and \$1.4 billion in 2005.

ADB: <http://www.adb.org/>

Source: http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/09/27/asia/AS_GEN_Asia_W ater.php

26. *September 26, Associated Press* — **Concern grows over aging rural water wells.** Concern is growing over drinking water in Iowa in many unincorporated towns and rural homes where old water wells are testing positive for contaminants such as coliform and nitrates. Substandard drinking water is a problem for many rural residents, officials with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources said. Older wells are often too shallow, have cracked casings and other flaws that create problems. When treating the well with chlorine fails, the only solution may be a new well, officials said.

Source: <http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/articles/2006/09/26/news/iowa/967bf8d03964f3e9862571f500110f05.txt>

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Public Health Sector

27. *September 27, Reuters* — **New South African tuberculosis cases raise fears of wider outbreak.** New cases of tuberculosis (TB) found in South Africa have raised fears there could be multiple versions of a highly drug resistant strain that has killed 62 people and threatens to spread across a region ravaged by AIDS. Health officials said on Wednesday, September 27, the five new cases were discovered in Gauteng, South Africa's premier economic region, which includes Johannesburg and Pretoria. The discovery has stoked concerns that extremely drug

resistant tuberculosis, or XDR-TB, may be spreading further, complicating efforts to contain the deadly march of AIDS in the region. A senior official of the World Health Organization (WHO) told Reuters it was probable XDR-TB was not confined to South Africa. Paul Nunn, coordinator of WHO's Stop TB Department said XDR-TB could be present in other regions of Africa afflicted by HIV/AIDS but which lacked the capacity to find and diagnose the illness.

TB information: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/default.htm>

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2006-09-27T130245Z_01_L27324142_RTRUKOC_0_US-SAFRICA-TB.xml&archived=False

28. *September 27, Agence France-Presse* — **Indonesia confirms bird flu in possible cluster.** A 20-year-old Indonesian man has contracted bird flu, the country's health minister said, after the death of his brother in a case that has raised fears of possible human transmission. So-called cluster cases, where the H5N1 virus is spread from human to human rather than from poultry, increase the chance of the virus mutating to become easily transmissible between people. Such a development, scientists fear, could lead to a global pandemic with a potential death toll of millions. "On the matter of bird flu, another case is positive," Health Minister Siti Fadillah Supari told reporters, referring to Taufik Zakaria, a patient being treated in hospital in the West Java city of Bandung. Zakaria's 25-year-old brother died Sunday, September 24, after showing bird flu symptoms, while the pair's 15-year-old sister has also been hospitalized complaining of similar symptoms. The 25-year-old was buried without samples being taken from his body. Indonesia reported the world's first laboratory confirmed case of human-to-human transmission in May, when seven people died in a cluster case. The World Health Organization estimates that there have been about half a dozen instances of human-to-human transmission.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060927/hl_afp/healthfluindonesia_060927052918;_ylt=AtfVdDOmuerJP03oMN_KloiJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--

29. *September 26, Agence France-Presse* — **Nigeria reports new polio cases.** Nigeria's northern state of Katsina has recorded 141 fresh cases of poliomyelitis this year, the chairman of the state's primary health care development agency, Ahmed Qabasiyu, said. Qabasiyu told the official News Agency of Nigeria in Katsina that the polio cases were recorded between January and September, with May having the highest number of 38 cases. The number of new cases fell to 25 in June and six in July following the first and second rounds of the newly introduced Immunization Plus Day (IPD) program. A total of 1.3 million children were immunized against polio during the just-concluded third round of the IPD in the state. Polio has yet to be eradicated in some northern Nigerian states, where parents and Muslim clerics initially rejected polio vaccines on the allegation that they were meant to depopulate the region.

Global Polio Eradication Initiative: <http://www.polioeradication.org/>

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060926/hl_afp/nigeriahealthpolio_060926193653;_ylt=AqHCaBCCBXKR6au4xkeqghSJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--

30. *September 26, Associated Press* — **Surge in Indiana's West Nile cases.** A late summer surge in West Nile cases has pushed Indiana's tally so far this year to 30 human cases — the most since 2003. The State Department of Health reported this week that 16 new cases of West Nile disease have been confirmed among Indiana residents, more than doubling the state's 2006 total

to 30. More cases are expected in the coming weeks as Hoosiers who've fallen ill with flu-like symptoms seek treatment and are diagnosed with West Nile, James Howell, a veterinary epidemiologist with the department, said Tuesday, September 26. Indiana's largest number of human West Nile cases was in 2002 -- the first year the virus was found in a state resident. That year, 293 human cases of the disease were reported. Each year since then, Howell said the state has recorded far fewer cases, with 48 in 2003, 13 in 2004 and 23 last year. Since 1999, when the virus that originated in Africa first appeared in the U.S., West Nile has killed about 800 Americans, and caused serious neurological illness, meningitis or encephalitis in more than 8,300 others.

West Nile information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>

Source: http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/newssentinel/news/local/1561472_7.htm

31. *September 24, Canadian Press* — **Testing an Ebola vaccine in humans poses challenges for scientists.** Scientists have developed promising vaccines against Ebola and Marburg viruses. These vaccines could make outbreaks of Ebola and Marburg hemorrhagic fevers a thing of the past -- if the scientists can figure out a way around a vexing roadblock to their development. But scientists find themselves stumped at how to get the proof they need to persuade a regulatory body like the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to approve the vaccines for human use. It's easy enough to show the vaccines are safe for human use. Scientists at the U.S. National Institutes of Health are expected to publish data soon from a Phase 1 trial of an Ebola vaccine they developed and administered to volunteers beginning in 2003. Blood from the volunteers will show if the vaccine coaxed their immune systems to develop antibodies and other immune responses that are thought to be signs of protection. But before a vaccine can be approved, its developers have to show it blocks infection in people who are immunized. Outbreaks of these diseases are rare and sporadic. With some mild diseases, scientists can expose immunized volunteers to a virus to prove a vaccine works. But deliberately exposing people to highly lethal viruses is out of the question.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/cp/health/060924/x092404.html>

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Government Sector

32. *September 27, Associated Press* — **Package prompts D.C. courthouse evacuation.** A federal courthouse within sight of the Capitol was evacuated after a suspicious package was found near the building. Fire alarms sounded, and the building was cleared shortly after 9:30 a.m. EDT, Wednesday, September 27, as a precaution. Law enforcement officials surveyed the area around the building's Constitution Avenue entrance. The evacuation of the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Courthouse occurred shortly before a hearing was to begin in the CIA leak case. The judges of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia were moved across the street to the D.C. Superior Courthouse.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/27/AR2006092700705.html>

33. *September 26, National Journal* — **Public-safety officials urged to embrace innovation.** Public-safety officials at all levels of government must embrace innovative solutions for emergency communications systems capable of functioning across jurisdictions, according to a

report released Tuesday, September 26. The study by the Aspen Institute found that the American safety community needs to abandon specialized systems and equipment, and adopt new strategies that take advantage of solutions already being implemented by the private sector and the military. By creating a "network of networks" across an Internet-based infrastructure, the safety community can work to develop cost-effective methods to allow for interoperable communications among emergency responders that can include existing radio systems. According to the report, federal policymakers must create incentives for officials to dedicate themselves to systems that provide more functionality than dedicated land mobile radio networks. The federal government must provide leadership by providing funding and spectrum licenses, and that can pave the way for state governments to oversee the management of their own communications systems, the report said.

Report: <http://www.aspeninstitute.org/atf/cf/%7BDEB6F227-659B-4EC8-8F84-8DF23CA704F5%7D/C&S%20FINALAIRSREP06.PDF>

Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35125&sid=28

34. *September 25, Washington Post* — **FBI is casting a wider net in anthrax attacks.** Five years after the anthrax attacks that killed five people, the FBI is now convinced that the lethal powder sent to the Senate was far less sophisticated than originally believed, widening the pool of possible suspects in a frustratingly slow investigation. The finding appears to undermine the widely held belief that the attack was carried out by someone with access to a U.S. biodefense lab. What was initially described as a near-military-grade biological weapon was ultimately found to have had a more ordinary pedigree. In addition, the strain of anthrax used in the attacks has turned out to be more common than was initially believed. As a result, the FBI is today casting a far wider net, as investigators face a list of possible suspects in scores of countries around the globe. Many law enforcement officials believe that ever-improving technology eventually could lead to a break in the case. Ongoing tests could lead authorities to the lab where the anthrax originated — something authorities have said for years could help close the case.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/24/AR2006092401014_pf.html

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Emergency Services Sector

35. *September 27, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Federal Emergency Management Agency National Situation Update.** Volcano Activity: Observers flying over Fourpeaked volcano, 95 miles southwest of Homer, AK, noted vents vigorously emitting steam and other volcanic gasses. Indicators suggested new magma at shallow levels and the possibility of an eruption. Based on all currently available evidence, the Alaska Volcano Observatory believes that an eruption from Fourpeaked in the next days to weeks is possible. Tropical Weather Outlook: Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Sea: Cloudiness and showers associated with a low pressure center had not become any better organized Tuesday, September 26, however, this system still has some potential for tropical cyclone formation during the next day or two as it continues to move to the northwest around 10 mph.

To view other Situation Updates: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm>

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2006/nat092706.shtm>

36. *September 27, Washington Times* — **Unified Communications Center opens in Washington, DC.** Officials on Tuesday, September 26, dedicated the new Unified Communications Center in Washington, DC, which will accept calls for police, fire, medical emergency and public service throughout the Washington metropolitan area. "It is a great model to the rest of the country," said Michael Chertoff, secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The center also will serve as the communications hub for underground emergency operations in the Metro system, which could involve personnel from several jurisdictions. It also eventually will be able to share wireless audio, video and text data with operations control centers in Maryland, Virginia and other nearby states. The building has generators, food, water and other essentials to maintain operations for three days in case an emergency eliminates easy access to those essentials. A traffic-management center also is located in the building. Following the July 4 fireworks display on the Mall, the D.C. Department of Transportation worked with authorities in Northern Virginia and the Maryland suburbs to test the designated evacuation routes that would be used during a real emergency.
Unified Communications Center Website: <http://www.ucc.dc.gov/ucc/site/default.asp>
Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/metro/20060926-111215-2158r.htm>

37. *September 26, Associated Press* — **Study: Communities unready for elderly.** Less than half of the nation's communities have begun preparing to deal with the needs of the elderly, whose ranks will swell dramatically with the aging of the baby boomers, according to a study released Wednesday, September 27. A survey of more than 1,790 towns, counties and other municipalities found that just 46 percent are looking at strategies to deal with aging America. The issue is critical because the baby boomers — those born between 1946 and 1964 — began turning 60 this year and are rapidly approaching retirement age. By 2030, the number of people over age 65 in the United States will exceed 71 million — double the number in the year 2000, according to the Washington, DC-based National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, or n4a, one of the sponsors of the study. The report, titled "The Maturing of America — Getting Communities on Track for an Aging Population," looks at health care and nutritional programs, transportation, public safety and emergency awareness, volunteer opportunities and other services.
n4a's report: <http://www.n4a.org/pdf/MOAFinalReport.pdf>
Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/4217469.html>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

38. *September 26, U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team* — **US-CERT Technical Cyber Security Alert TA06-262A: Microsoft Internet Explorer VML buffer overflow.** Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE) fails to properly handle Vector Markup Language (VML) tags. This creates a buffer overflow vulnerability that could allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code. By convincing a user to open a specially crafted HTML document, such as a Webpage or HTML e-mail message, a remote attacker could execute arbitrary code with the privileges of the user running IE. Note that this vulnerability is being exploited.
Systems Affected: Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Internet Explorer.
Solution: Microsoft has provided an update to correct this vulnerability in Microsoft Security

Bulletin MS06–055: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms06–055.msp>

This update is available on the Microsoft Update site:

<https://update.microsoft.com/microsoftupdate/v6/muoptdefault.aspx?ln=en&returnurl=https://update.microsoft.com/microsoftupdate/v6/default.aspx?ln=en-us>

System administrators may wish to consider using Windows Server Update Services:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsserversystem/updateservices/default.msp>

In addition, Microsoft Security Advisory (925568) suggests some techniques to disable VML support and suggests configuring Microsoft Outlook and Outlook Express to render e-mail messages in plain text format: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/advisory/925568.mspx>

Source: <http://www.uscert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA06–262A.html>

39. *September 26, Security Focus* — **OpenOffice XML file format buffer overflow**

vulnerability. OpenOffice is prone to a vulnerability that allows attackers to gain unauthorized access to a vulnerable computer. The vendor has reported that this vulnerability allows malicious XML documents to cause a buffer overflow leading to read/write privileges to local files on a vulnerable computer.

For a complete list of vulnerable products: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/18739/info>

Solution: The vendor has released version 2.0.3 to address this and other issues. Please see the referenced advisories for more information:

<http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/18739/references>

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/18739/discuss>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 80 (www), 445 (microsoft-ds), 113 (auth), 2933 (4-tieropmgw), 4672 (eMule), 135 (epmap), 139 (netbios-ssn), 5900 (vnc) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov .	
Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: https://www.it-isac.org/ .	

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

40. *September 27, Daily Review (CA)* — **Pipe bomb found, detonated in park.** A dozen homes were evacuated Tuesday night, September 26, while police investigated a suspicious object in Palma Ceia Park in California's Bay Area that turned out to be a pipe bomb. Police cordoned off Miami Avenue between Decatur Way and Melbourne Avenue near the Glen Eden neighborhood park for several hours. The Alameda County Sheriff's Department bomb squad determined the object was a pipe bomb and exploded it. Police received a call at 5:55 p.m. PDT from a man who found the device in the park near the intersection of Miami and Decatur. The

man had been searching for coins with a metal detector when he found the object, Hayward police Lt. Mark Mosier said. "This is the first incident of this nature in a long time...but it sounds like a really isolated incident," he said.

Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/dailyreview/localnews/ci_4403160

41. *September 26, Federal Times* — Smart cameras assume larger role in homeland security.

The future of facility security lies in rigging cameras that can be programmed to reliably search for suspicious people or vehicles and alert staff to potential dangers, says a security consultant overseeing an upgrade at the Port of Houston. James Black of TRC Solutions, said that the federal government, military, and industry are using video analytics at many — but not all — facilities. The technology can be programmed to watch for suspicious things, such as a truck parked in front of a building for a few minutes or a person walking into a restricted area, and then alert security officials. The technology is an improvement over simple motion detection devices that cannot tell a person from a deer, Black said, and it is much more reliable than having people watch banks of monitors looking for something out of the ordinary. Most people zone out after 15 minutes of watching static images and will miss subtle, but important, developments, he said. Once the system sounds an alert, a person can take a closer look and decide whether a response is needed or if it is nothing to worry about.

Source: <http://federaltimes.com/index.php?S=2131748>

42. *September 26, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — FEMA clarifies policy on mapping areas protected by levees.

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Tuesday, September 27, announced new guidance which provides communities additional time to gather data needed to assess the protective capabilities of levees while still allowing new Flood Insurance Rate Maps to be released on time. FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are working together to make sure that flood hazard maps clearly reflect the flood protection capabilities of levees, and that the maps accurately represent the flood risks posed to areas situated behind them. For eligible levees, levee owners have 24 months to gather information on the extent to which a levee meets current flood protection standards. In the interim, areas behind the levee are mapped as moderate risk areas, and the levee itself is noted to be a Provisionally Accredited Levee.

FEMA information on levees: http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/lv_intro.shtm.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=30278>

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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